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Gary R. Stanton
Sheriff/ Coroner

June 6, 2007

Honorable David Edwin Power Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Solano Superior Court 600 Union Avenue Fairfield, CA 94533

Sheriff's Response to the 2006/2007 Solano County Grand Jury Report Dated April 27, 2007 Entitled: Solano County Justice Center Detention Facility Inspection.

## Solano County Justice Center Detention Facility

<u>Finding #1:</u> Policy and procedure are consolidated into one operating manual for the Fairfield and Claybank Detention Facilities.

## Recommendation #1: None.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The policies and procedures of the Sheriff's Office are continually being reviewed, updated and consolidated to reduce liability and ensure consistent operation of the detention facilities.

Finding #2: The Jail Management Team, Facility Inspection Team and the Facility Search Team were created to enhance overall operations.

Recommendation #2: The teams should remain in place as part of the overall operations of the Sheriff's Department.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The teams have encouraged open communications between the ranks enabling potential safety and security issues to be addressed and corrected in a timely manner. These teams have become an integral part of the Custody Division. Currently the Custody Management Team is meeting on a monthly basis. The Facility Inspection Team is routinely walking throughout the facilities inspecting and documenting safety and security issues that may arise. The Facility Search Team continues operations as needed.

<u>Finding #3:</u> The Sheriff's Department Custody Division entered into a contract with Legal Research Associates, which has enhanced the ability of inmate's to access legal material and reduced inmate complaints relating to accessing legal material.

Recommendation #3: The contract should remain in place allowing inmates to continue to participate in the service.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. The contract with Legal Research Associates (LRA) has been in place since October 1, 2005. To date, we are satisfied with the level of service and the working relationship that has developed between staff and LRA. Provided the quality of service continues at present level this contract will be reevaluated for renewal prior to the expiration date of September 30, 2008.

Finding #4: Occasionally adult and juvenile inmates are within hearing distance of each other when detained at the Superior Court Holding Cells.

Recommendation #4: Dialog should continue between the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and the Superior Court with the goal of correcting this situation as indicated in the Corrections Standard Authority report.

Response: The Sheriff's Office concurs with the finding of the Grand Jury. A dialog has been established between the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department and the Superior Court and will continue with the goal of correcting the situation indicated in the Corrections Standard Authority report. The Sheriff has formally noticed the Probation Department that this situation must be corrected. In order for the appropriate change to occur the Probation Department and the Superior Court must change the location of juvenile hearings. Any independent action taken by the Sheriff to prevent the Probation Department from utilizing existing holding facilities will result in a significant disruption of the Juvenile Justice System. Our continuing goal is to resolve this issue prior to our next annual inspection by Corrections Standards Authority.

In closing, I appreciate the effort put forth by those members of the Grand Jury conducting the annual inspection of my custody facilities. They were inquisitive, asked the important questions, addressed controversial issues and produced what I believe is a valuable and objective report. The positive recognition by the Grand Jury of our efforts to maintain safe and secure jail facilities is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Gary R. Stanton

Sheriff-Coroner